REMARKS

Claims 1-13, 15-22 and 25-37 are now pending in the application. Claims 1, 26, 31, 32, 33, 34 and 35 are independent. The claims are all directed to a special construction for a corner tie or connection bracket for insulated concrete wall forms.

An important feature of the corner bracket is the inclusion of first and second horizontal elongate wing members joined together along a seam and extending outwardly from the seam to form an angle between the wing members. Further, separate vertical elongate plates or plate members are attachable to and detachable from the horizontal wing members and extend vertically with respect to the wing members.

In the manufacture of insulated concrete forms (ICF's) the corner brackets are inserted into molds. Subsequently the foam, for example, polystyrene foam is injected into the molds to form around and encapsulate the corner brackets to thereby result in an insulated concrete form (ICF). Typically two wall panels are connected together by the corner bracket. The brackets are especially useful with respect to manufacture of dual panel and spaced panel insulted concrete forms (ICFs) integrally manufactured to include four planar foam or polystyrene foam panels with a connecting corner bracket. In this regard, the utility of the corner bracket is enhanced by the fact that the component parts including the horizontal wing members and separate vertical plate members maybe inserted into ICF molds or may be assembled and easily placed in molds for the manufacture of an ICF. The plate members are useful in that they enable making an insulated concrete form (ICF) which will easily and effectively receive fasteners, such as screws, by which sheathing or other facing materials may be attached to the ICF.

The Examiner rejected the claims principally upon the reference Boeshart U.S. Patent No. 4,916,879 entitled Corner Tie. In that rejection, the Examiner argued that the corner tie of Boeshart, allegedly as depicted in Figure 1 thereof, teaches a corner bracket or tie wherein the bracket is comprised of paddles that are at least partially encapsulated. Thus, referring to Figures 2 and 3, the corner tie 10 in the Boeshart '879 patent includes an inner angular paddle 18 and exterior angular paddle 20. At column 3 beginning at line 1 the paddles 18, 20 are defined as elements which "abut" separate foam panels 12A and/or 12B. It is clear that the description of abutting paddles 18, 20 is not encapsulation as urged by the Examiner. The 1983 version of Webster's 9th New Collegiate Dictionary defines "abut" in the following manner: "to touch on a boarder: to boarder on: touch."

Clearly Boeshart does not disclose or teach or infer the concept of a corner tie designed for encapsulation in an insulated concrete form. Examination of the figures in Boeshart bears this out. Figures 1, 3 and 5-8 all depict the so-called paddles 18, 20 in abutment with separate, preformed insulated concrete form panels (12). This conclusion is made clear by the fact that in the specification of Boeshart, the manner of use of the corner tie or bracket taught therein relies upon cutting slots in preformed panels in order to integrate the Boeshart corner brackets with the preformed panels (12), for example, see column 4, line 8 et seq. Thus, the construction contemplated by Boeshart as contrasted with that herein claimed is clearly distinct.

There are other distinctions with respect to the structure of the claimed bracket or tie. For example, as now more clearly set forth, the vertical plate members in the present claims are attachable to and detachable from the horizontal wing members forming the corner bracket assembly. As explained above, this expands the utility of the presently claimed invention. That

is, variously sized plate members may be used in combination with variously sized horizontal wing member assemblies in the manufacture of ICFs wherein the foam panels and ties are integral. The configuration, shape and length of the plate members may be distinctive depending, for example, upon the ultimate size of the ICF. This saves time and money with respect to the assembly and manufacture of insulated concrete forms utilizing corner brackets of the type of the present invention.

Further, the claimed structure of the bracket is distinct. The claims require that the plate members extend vertically with respect to the horizontal wing extension. Thus they project upwardly and/or downwardly from the wing extensions. This is not suggested by Boeshart. This feature enables use of plate members which can extend or project vertically between or toward or beyond top and/or bottom edges of ICF form panels whereas the horizontal wing members need not and would not typically do so. This saves material used to make the corner tie and also ensures improved integrity of the molded foam ICF panel.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the claims as amended and passage thereof to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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